

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 12 and 14-30 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 13 having been previously cancelled.

Claims 14-21 are objected to for incorrectly depending on cancelled claim 1.

Claims 12 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 597 506 to Sugiyama et al. ("Sugiyama").

Claims 12, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,129,708 to Enger ("Enger").

Claims 12, 17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,547,472 to Onishi, et al. ("Onishi").

Claims 12, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Onishi in view of U.S. 6,520,934 to Lee, et al. ("Lee").

Claims 12, and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Onishi in view of U.S. 4,938,220 to Mueller, Jr. ("Mueller").

Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 22-30 are allowed.

Detailed Response

The Office Action identified claim 14 as being allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 14. Because claim 14 depended directly from claim 12, the amendment to claim 12 is equivalent to rewriting claim 14 in independent form. Accordingly, amended claim 12 distinguishes over the prior art. Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 15-21 have been amended to depend from claim 12 instead of cancelled claim 1. Accordingly, claims 15-21 distinguish over the prior art for at least the same reasons as provided above regarding amended claim 12.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the prior art rejections of claims 12 and 15-21 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the present application, including claims 12 and 15-30 is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable response is earnestly requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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